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*Palacios Job Fair a Success More Than 150 Participate in Weekend Event*

Palacios, Texas -- More than 150 people participated in last weekend's Palacios Job Fair, hosted by Congressman Ron Paul, in Matagorda County. The event was held at the Palacios Recreation Center. This was Paul's first Job Fair of 2000, but follows four other successful fairs he has hosted in other locations around the 14th District - two in Matagorda County, one in Refugio County and one in Caldwell County. "I'm very pleased that so many people were able to participate," said Paul. "Our goal was to bring together employers and potential new employees -- it looks like our goal was met and exceeded." Palacios has an unemployment rate of 15%. Approximately 50 employers, ranging from private businesses to government agencies and military recruiters were on hand looking for new employees. "Our goal with the job fairs is to target areas that suffer from high unemployment rates," said Paul. "The problem is often not that jobs are unavailable, it is just that employers and applicants cannot find each other. It is great to be able to bring them together in this kind of setting." Paul said he and his staff are working with other communities around the 14th District, in an attempt to hold at least one more job fair this summer.